

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-13 SCCT-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 ACDA-07 AID-05

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R 141143Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2014

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4998

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG CH XF RO LY

SUBJECT: SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA

1. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 14 GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO COMMENTS
MADE BY PRESIDENT SADAT PREVIOUS DAY AT VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE
PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO EGYPT. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST:

2. PALESTINIANS. PRESIDENT SADAT STATED THAT PLO LARGELY MODERATE
MOVEMENT AND NOT IN HANDS OF RADICALS, ADDING THAT PLO DEMAND FOR
STATE FOR PALESTINIANS COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS "RADICAL." IN
ANSWER TO DIRECT QUESTION, PRESIDENT STATED THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT
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CONSENT TO GIVE UP PART OF EGYPTIAN SINAI TERRITORY TO FACILITATE

FORMATION OF PALESTINAIN STATE. PRESIDENT COMMENTED THAT THIS ATTITUDE HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY 1974 RABAT ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS HAVE ALWAYS DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN GAZA STRIP, WHICH HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN CONCEDED TO BE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, AND EGYPTIAN SINAI, WHICH EGYPT HAS NEVER CONSIDERED CEDING TO PALESTINIANS. ENDORSEMENT OF EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD CESSION OF EGYPTIAN SINAI TO PALESTINIAN STATE HAS ALSO BEEN MADE BY PREVIOUS ARAB SUMMITS PRIOR TO 1974. END COMMENT.

4. PRC AND INDIA. PRESIDENT SADAT EMPHASIZED GRATITUDE OF GOE TO PEKING FOR GIFT OF MIG ENGINES AND SPARE PARTS ANNOUNCED IN LATE MARCH, AND AGAIN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE NEW DELHI REGIME FOR REFUSAL, UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE, TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH SOVIET-ORIGIN MILITARY SPARE PARTS. PRESIDENT COMMENTED THAT EGYPTIANS HAD ASKED PEKING FOR MORE THAN MIG ENGINES ALREADY SUPPLIED AND HAD OFFERED TO PAY CASH, BUT CHINESE HAD TOLD EGYPTIANS "WE ARE NO ARMS DEALERS." SADAT COMMENTED THAT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED UPCOMING VISIT TO PEKING BY VP MUBARAK PRIMARILY TO DISPLAY CAIRO'S GRATITUDE TO PRC AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FUTURE OF COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC SPHERE.

5. COMMENT: LOCAL INDIAN EMBASSY BECOMING HYPERSENSITIVE TO CONTINUED CRITICISM OF INDIAN'S SPARE PARTS STANCE BY PRESIDENT SADAT. COMMENT AT VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE UNLIKELY TO SOOTH RUFFLED INDIAN FEATHERS. LOCAL PRC DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN TELLING DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES DURING PAST WEEK THAT PRC RESOURCES EXTREMELY LIMITED BOTH IN TERMS OF ARMS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND THAT, ALTHOUGH PEKING WILL ATTEMPT TO MEET SOME EGYPTIAN AID REQUESTS, PRC EMPHASIZING IN ADVANCE THAT NO LARGE MILITARY COMMITMENTS CAN REALISTICALLY BE MADE AT THIS TIME. SADAT, IN HIS STATEMENT THAT MUBARAK VISIT PRIMARILY TO EXPRESS EGYPTIAN GRATITUDE FOR MIG ENGINE GIFT, SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN PRC MESSAGE AND IS DOWN PLAYING EGYPTIAN PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL PRC AID. END COMMENT.

6. LIBYA. SADAT STATED THAT QADHAFI APPARENTLY MENTALLY ILL AND THAT SOVIET ARMS FOR LIBYANS OF NO CONCERN TO EGYPT PROVIDED THAT ARMS USED ONLY BY LIBYAN SOLDIERS. PRESIDENT ALSO STATED THAT QADHAFI HAD SENT COMMANDOS TO EUROPE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSASSINATE HIM DURING HIS EUROPEAN SWING AND EGYPTIAN SECURITY HAD BEEN AWARE OF THIS THREAT.

7. ROMANIA. PRESIDENT SADAT DOWN PLAYED VISIT OF DEPPRIMIN/MINWAR GAMASY TO BUCHAREST, STATING THAT VISIT HAD BEEN AGREED ON OVER A YEAR AGO, PRIOR TO GAMASY ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES AS MINWAR. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO SADAT, PREVIOUS MINWAR FIELD MARSHALL ISMA'IL HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO MAKE ROMANIA VISIT BUT HIS DEATH

HAD INTERVENED AND VISIT HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL NOW. SADAT MADE NO COMMENTS CONCERNING EGYPTIAN EXPECTATIONS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT RESULTING FROM GAMASY VISIT TO BUCHAREST.

8. SOVIET UNION. SADAT REITERATED GOE DESIRE TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WITHOUT EXTENSIVE CRITICISM OF SOVIET UNION FOR PAST FAILURES TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT. SADAT NOTED THAT ABROGATION OF FRIENDSHIP TREATY DOES NOT MEAN BEGINNING OF ENMITY WITH SOVIET UNION AND THAT, ON CONTRARY, GOE DESIRES NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES.

9. COMMENT: GOE AND LOCAL PRESS HAVE BEEN STRESSING IN RECENT DAYS THEME THAT ABROGATION OF TREATY DOES NOT PAVE WAY FOR ESCALATION OF TENSIONS BETWEEN USSR AND EGYPT. THIS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, MEAN THAT INTERNALLY GOE NOT MAINTAINING EXTREME VIGILANCE AGAINST COMMUNIST MANEUVERS. AKHBAR REPORTED APRIL 14 THAT GROUP OF 20 COMMUNISTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN ALEXANDRIA PREVIOUS DAY AND WOULD REMAIN IN JAIL DURING INVESTIGATION. STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL, QUOTED IN AKHBAR, ACCUSED COMMUNISTS OF UNSPECIFIED ATTEMPTS TO PROVOKE TROUBLES IN ALEXANDRIA AREA AND OF WORKING AGAINST INTERESTS OF PUBLIC ORDER. END COMMENT.
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